

Regional Movers Index

December 2023 Quarter Report

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What is Regional Movers Index?



The **Regional Movers Index** presents fresh analysis of movements between Australia's capital cities and regions.

The **Index** is a partnership between Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), powered by analysis of proprietary data to create an up-to-date and granular picture of a large sample of relocations.

The **Index** updates the trends identified in the RAI's 2019 Big Movers report – that in recent decades more people have been moving from Australia's capital cities to regions than in the opposite direction.

Established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to track the movement of capital city people to the regions, the RMI publication has also highlighted that regional people were tending to stay in regions to avoid those severe capital-city lockdowns. Now that Australia is living with COVID and population flows from regions to capitals have resumed, the RMI publication is honing its focus on the net migration inflows that Australia's regions are continuing to experience. See pp19-21 in the Appendix for details on the various revision to the methodology that focuses on these net flows.

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- The **Index** is powered by CBA data from relocations amongst its 16 million customers.
 - Quarterly and annual changes are presented in the Index.
 - This **Index** is an invaluable resource for both the public and private sectors. By tracking people's movements it enables early identification of growth trends, and flags places emerging as hotspots needing fresh thinking on housing and infrastructure.

Regional Movers Index

Regional Movers Index drops to four-year low, as more Australians stay put

The number of Australians packing up and making the move came off the boil this quarter. Following the typical seasonal trend of reduced mobility in the last three months of the year (when recruitment activity slows), the drop-off was sharper this quarter than previous December quarters.

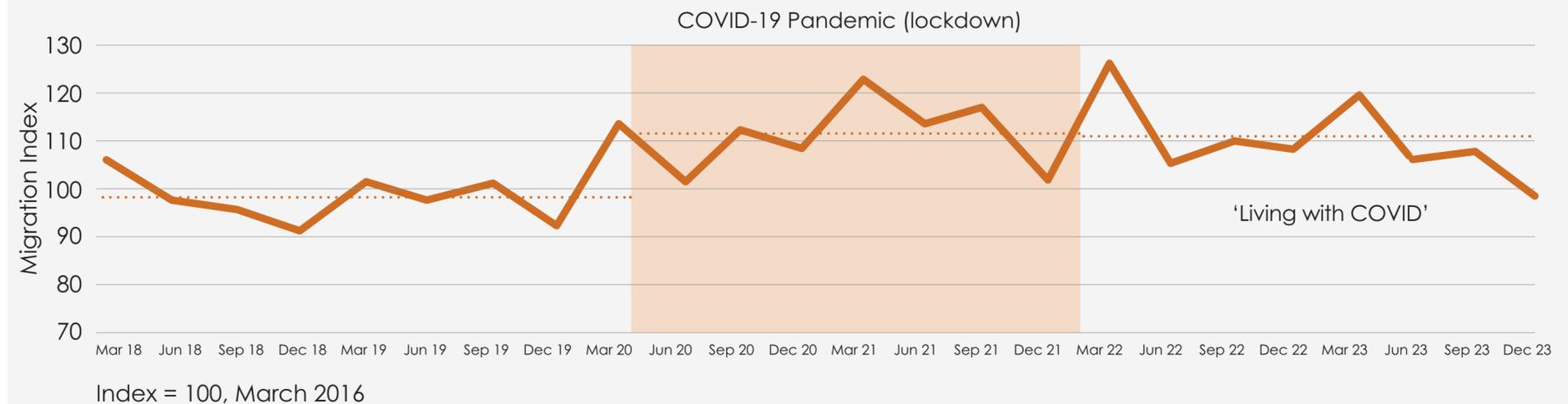
That said, while internal migration fell by 11.5 per cent in the December 2023 quarter, the number of people moving from the capitals to the regions fell by a smaller margin (at 9.2 per cent), than those from regions to capitals (at 12.1 per cent).

Against this backdrop of reduced mobility, the 9.2 per cent fall in capital to regional migration saw the Regional Movers Index (RMI) hit a four-year low – to track around 2.1 per cent above the pre-COVID average.

While this represents a tangible fall, the RMI typically dips in the December quarter by an average 6.1 per cent. As such, the next RMI results pegged for the March 2024 quarter, will provide more insight into whether this drop-off is a sustained trend, or a seasonal dip.

See p21, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-region and capital-region migration – discussing the shares under this breakdown of total major relocations.

Regional Movers Index: Population flows from Capital cities to Regional Australia



Breakdown of total relocations within Australia



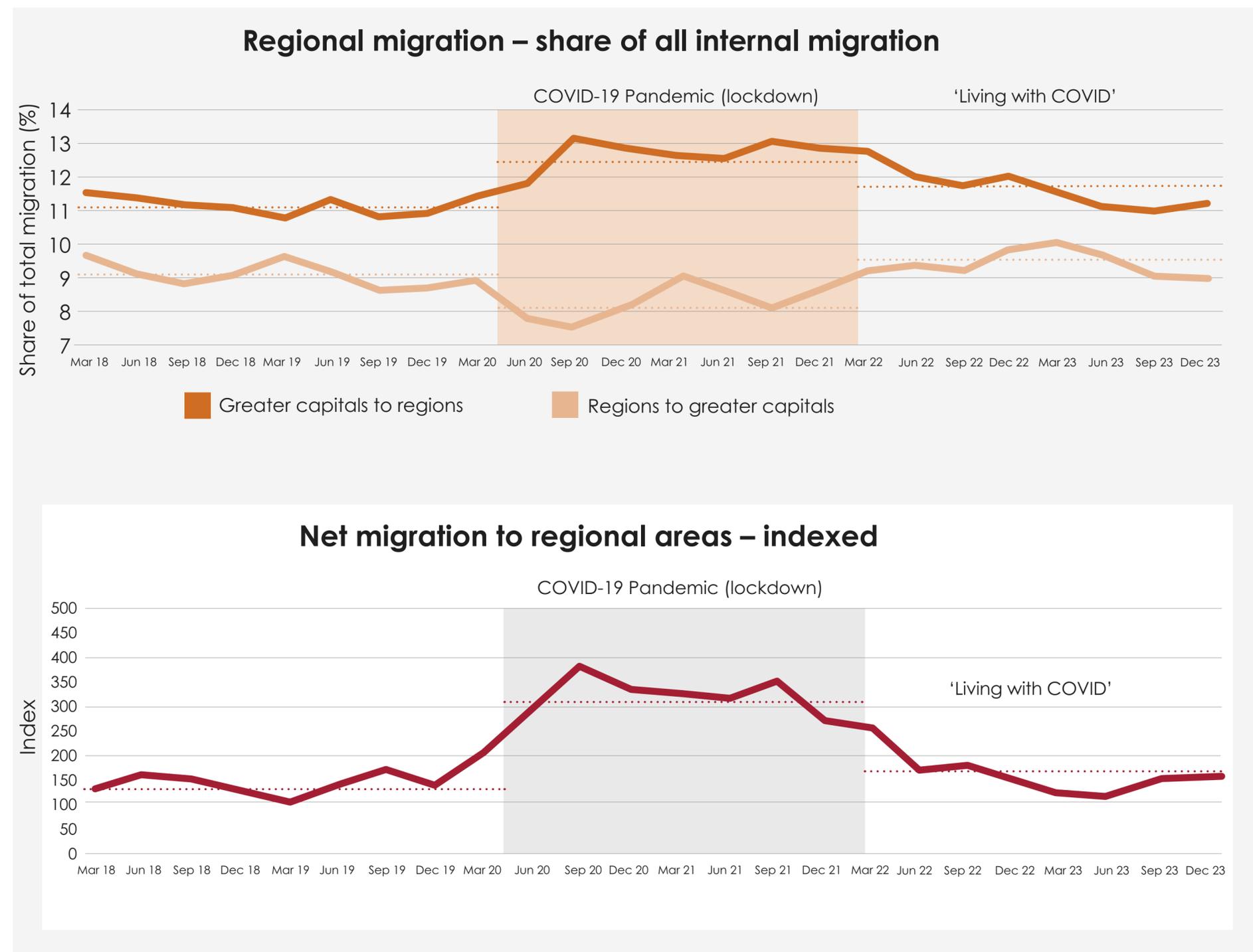
Net Internal Migration to Regional Australia

Regional living retains its appeal, as more head to the regions than into the city

While internal migration cooled in the December quarter, regional living continued to hold sway, with 24.9 per cent more people moving from the city to the regions than back in the other direction. This divergence peaked during COVID, when the percentage averaged 53.6 per cent, however at current levels it still remains above its pre-COVID average of 22.4 per cent.

Those moving from the cities to the regions now account for an 11.3 per cent share of all relocations (up by 0.3 per cent on the September 2023 quarter), compared to 9 per cent of those moving in the opposite direction (relatively unchanged from 9.1 in the previous quarter). As such, city to regional migration is currently tracking 2 per cent above the pre-COVID average, while regional to city migration is trailing by 1 per cent over the same period.

This two-tiered growth rates in migration flows drove the net migration index up by 4.6 per cent to its highest level since the September 2022 quarter – tracking 13.8 per cent above the pre-COVID average.



Migration Patterns By State



Sydney-siders lead the exodus to the regions

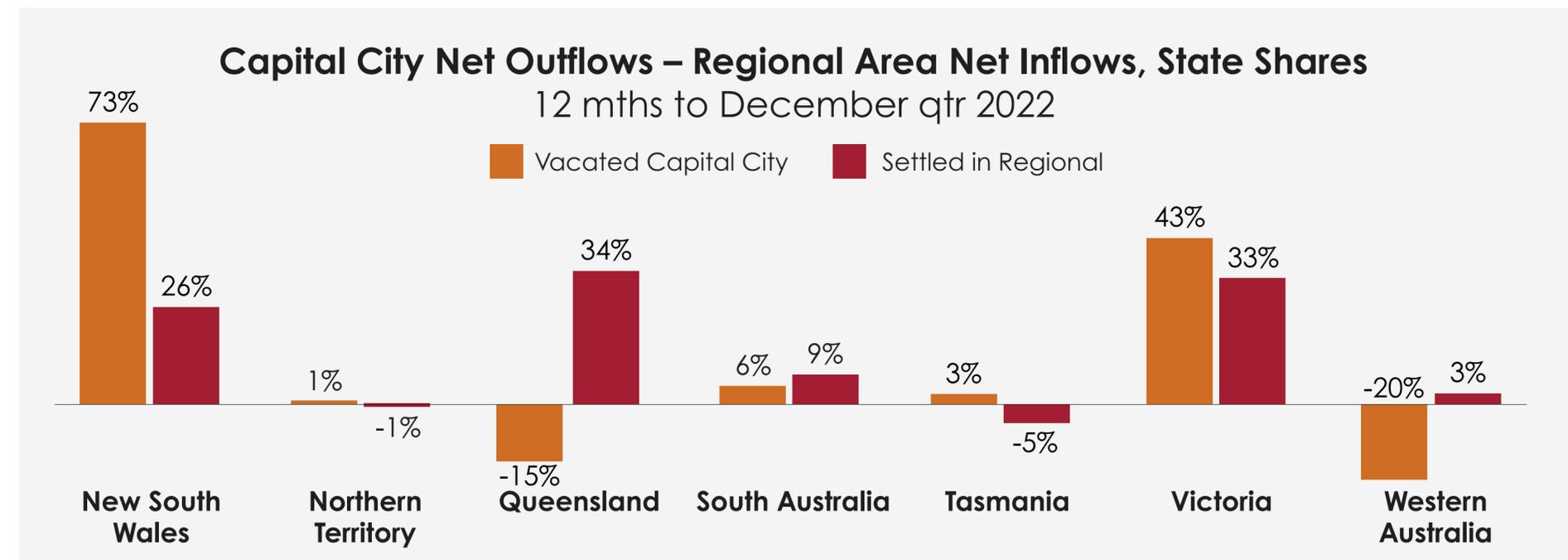
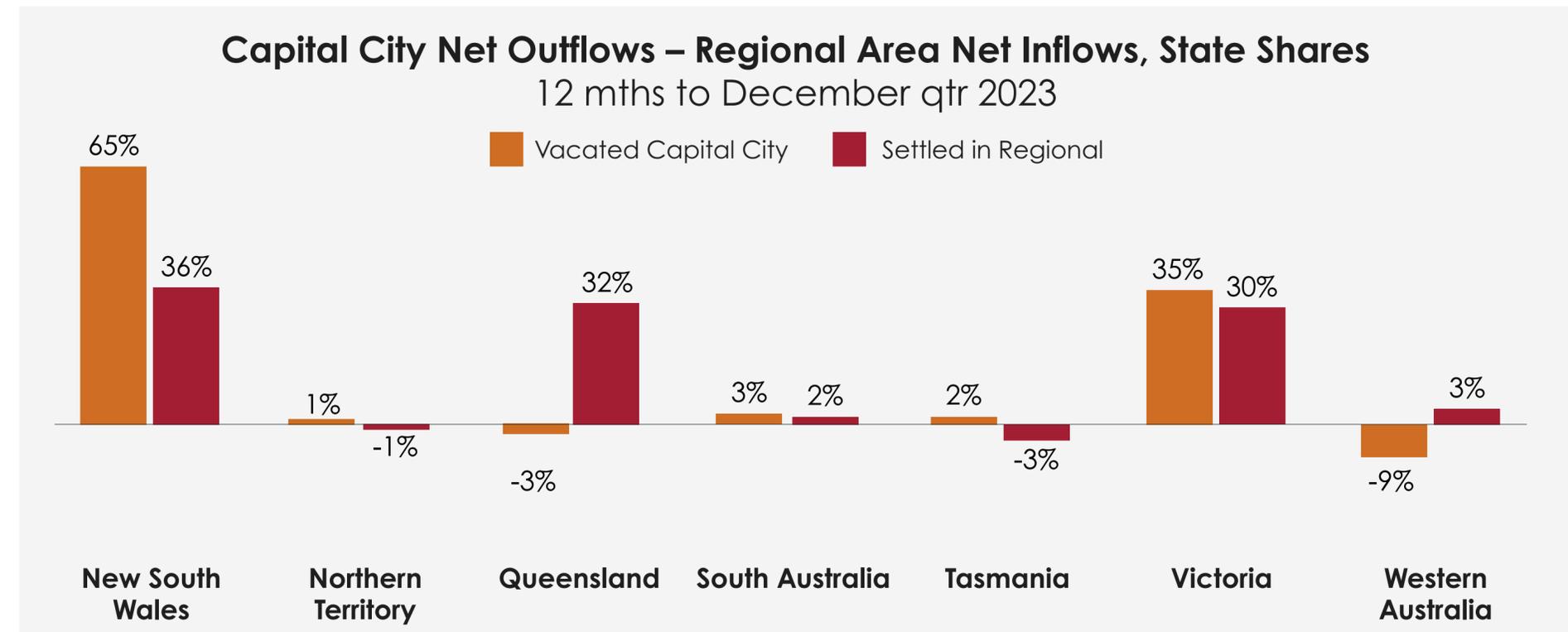
The charts opposite show the breakdown of net migration on a state by state basis in terms of the share of **net migration out of capital cities and the net migration into regional areas**.

City-siders set their sights on shifting out into regional New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria over the past year – with regional New South Wales increasing in popularity to account for 36 per cent of net capital outflows in the 12 months to December 2023 – up from 26 per cent a year ago. Net city outflows to regional Queensland and Victoria remained relatively in line with the previous 12 months at 32 and 30 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, regional Western Australia and South Australia accounted for 3 and 2 per cent respectively of net inflows, while regional Tasmania and the Northern Territory experienced small net outflows.

Sydney-siders continued to lead the exodus out into the regions, accounting for 65 per cent of all capital city outflows to the regions in the 12 months to December 2023 – down from 73 per cent a year ago. While Melbourne’s share edged down to 35 per cent, from 43 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022. Adelaide, Hobart and Darwin also recorded small shares of net outflows of 3, 2 and 1 per cent respectively.

Perth and Brisbane bucked the trend by attracting net inflows from other capital cities and regions equivalent to 9 and 3 per cent of all net inflows – down from 20 and 15 per cent in the previous 12-month period to December 2022.



Regional Hotspots by Share

Top Five LGAs: the largest net internal migration inflows

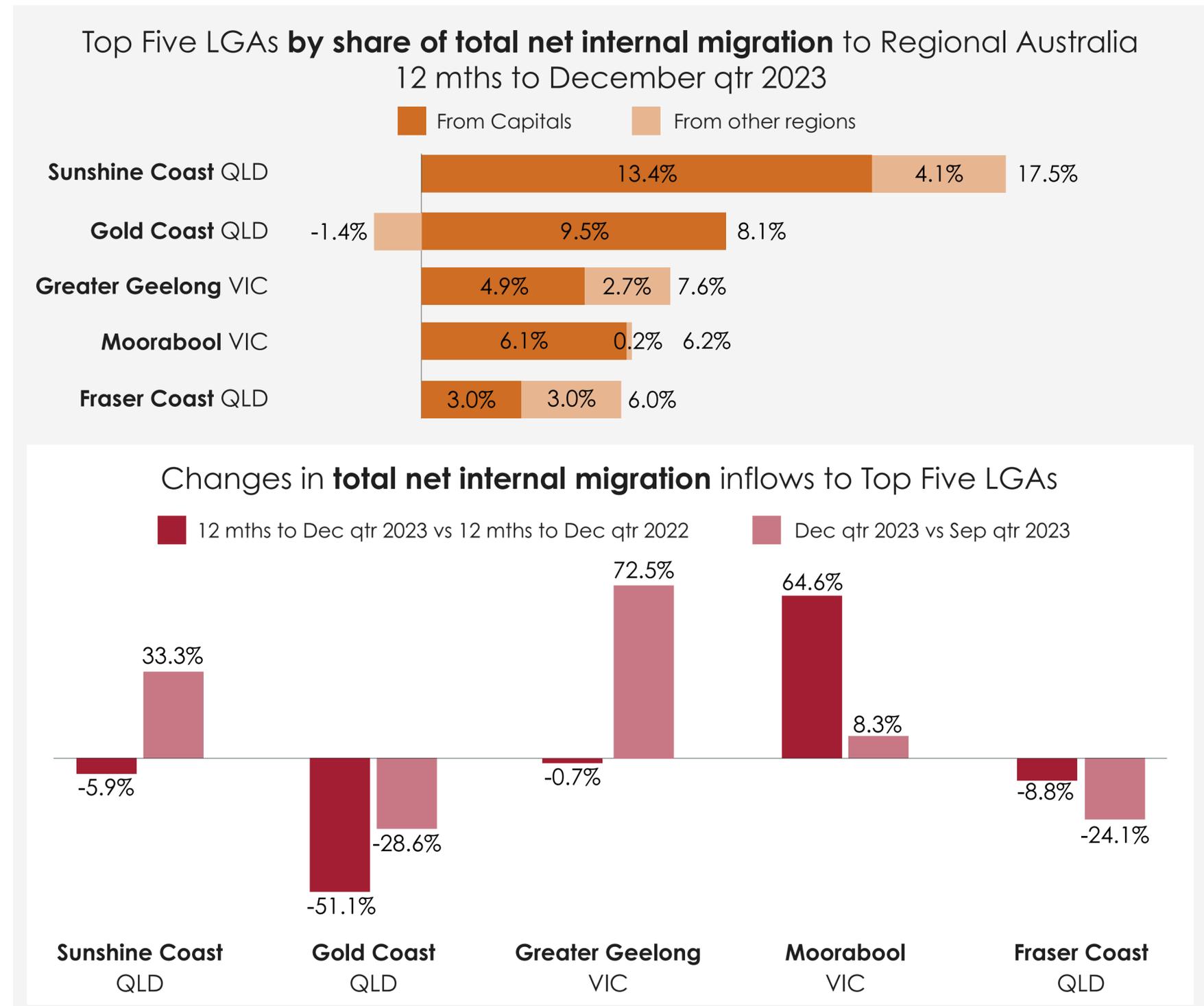
The Sunshine Coast firmly held onto its mantle as the most popular destination amongst Australian movers, with its share of all net internal migration flows increasing to 17.5 per cent in the December 2023 quarter – its highest share since the metric was first measured in December 2022. This was driven by an increase from last quarter of 33.3 per cent – particularly from the capitals – though growth over the full year was down by 5.9 per cent.

The Gold Coast came in second, with an 8.1 per cent share of total net migration flows, underpinned by strong city inflows as the LGA experienced a net outflow of 1.4 per cent to other regional areas. Overall, total net migration inflows to the Gold Coast were down on both a quarterly (28.6 per cent) and annual (51.1 per cent) basis.

Greater Geelong took out third place, with a 7.6 per cent share, with city movers accounting for around two thirds of its net internal migration inflows. The Victorian LGA recorded the highest quarterly growth rate – out of the Top Five – at 72.5 per cent, while its annual growth was stable at -0.7 per cent.

Meanwhile Moorabool – which first debuted on the Top Five List in June 2023, climbed into fourth, with a 6.2 per cent share. A popular destination for Melbourne-dwellers, it recorded a solid annual growth rate of 64.6 per cent, consolidated by a quarterly rise of 8.3 per cent.

The Fraser Coast edged down into fifth position with its 6 per cent share, with net migration inflows evenly attributed to city and regional movers despite a slowdown in growth on a quarterly and annual basis.



Regional Hotspots by Growth

Top Five LGAs: the largest net internal migration inflows

Western Australia emerged as home to some of the nation's fastest growing regional LGAs this quarter, with the west taking out three of the Top Five growth hotspot positions as measured by annual growth in net internal migration inflows.

Boddington, in the Peel region of Western Australia recorded the highest annual growth in net internal migration inflows, with a three-fold increase on the back of its popularity amongst city movers. While quarterly growth was up by 40 per cent, one of the highest readings in the Top Five.

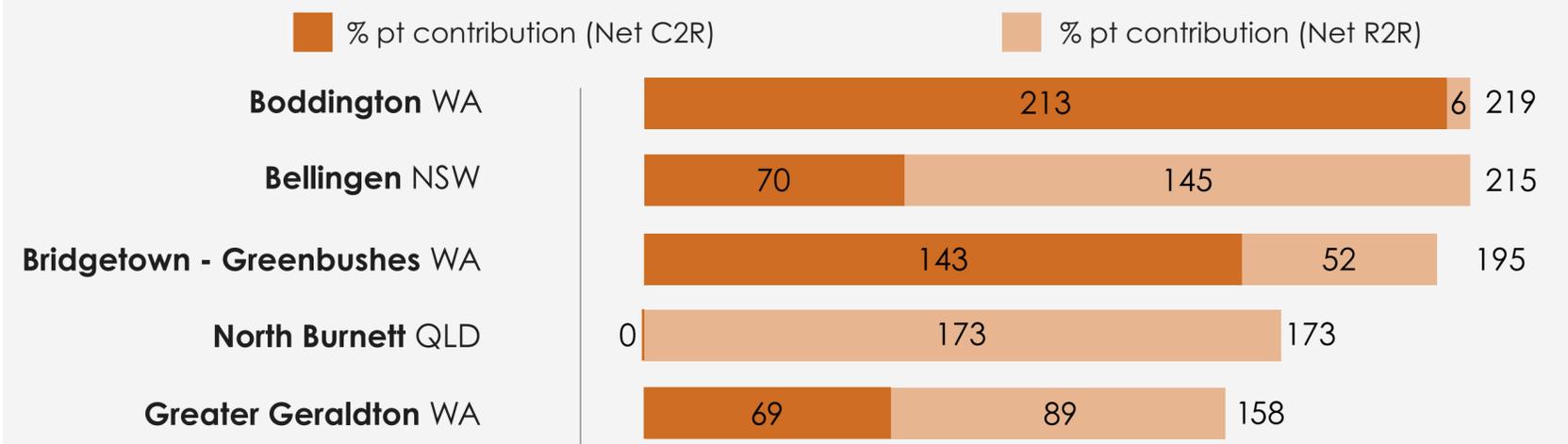
Bellingen, in the Mid North Coast of New South Wales also made its debut in the Top Five, with a three-fold increase in its annual growth rate, with regional movers the key contributor.

The Western Australian LGA of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, came in third position, with high city migration inflows contributing to its 195 per cent annual growth rate. Growth on a quarterly basis was also up, albeit the small number of movers over the past three months resulted in an outlier quarterly growth rate.

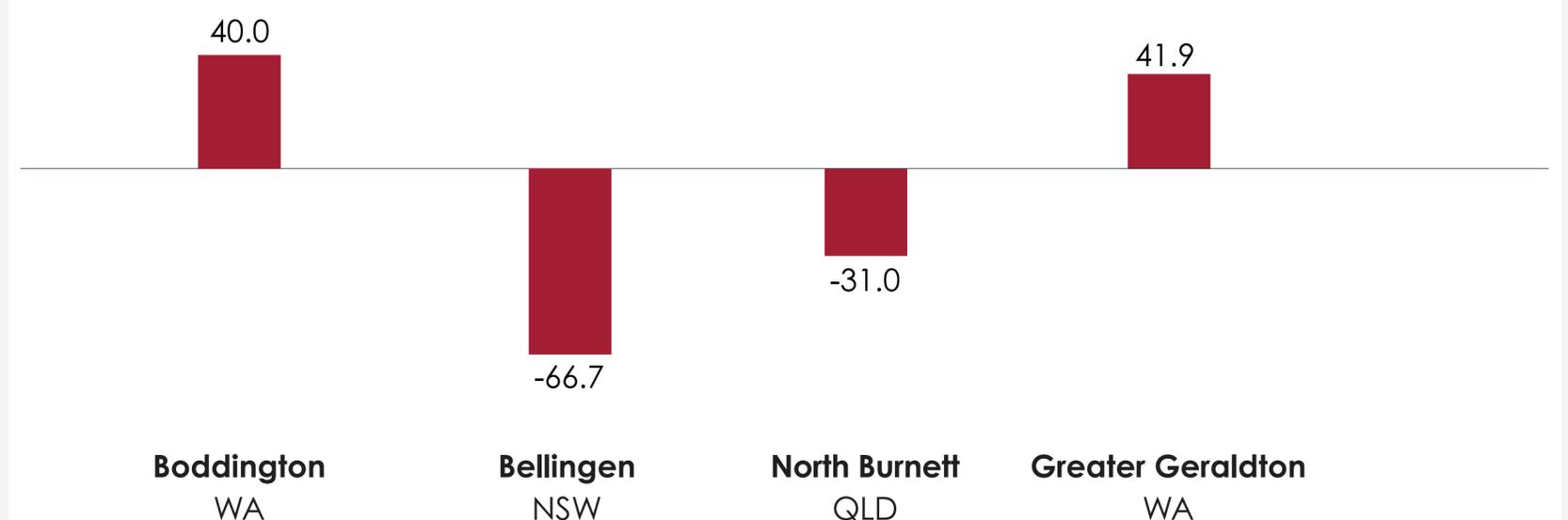
The agricultural hub of North Burnett in Queensland's south-east took out fourth place, with its near three-fold annual growth rate entirely driven by strong regional inflows. While on a quarterly basis, growth in total net internal migration inflows was down by 31 per cent.

Western Australia's Greater Geraldton was the only LGA to have made the Top Five previously, topping the list in June 2023 and taking out second spot last quarter. Recording a 158 per cent growth rate in the 12 months to December 2023, its growth was fairly evenly distributed between regional and capital inflows, while its quarterly growth rate stood at 41.9 per cent.

Top Five LGAs by annual growth in total net internal migration inflows 12 months to Dec qtr 2023 vs 12 months to Dec qtr 2022, % change



Quarterly change in total net internal migration to Top Five LGAs December qtr 2023 vs Sep qtr 2023, % change



*In the December 2023 quarter, the number of people moving in and out of Bridgetown-Greenbushes was very small, which resulted in an outlier quarterly growth rate.

Regional Hotspots By Growth

Top Five 'Growth' LGAs: where are they moving from?

Deeper analysis of the fastest growing regional LGAs, by annual growth in net internal migration inflows, revealed those making the move were most likely to be from the closest capital city. Albeit, in the case of the Top Five, further than the typical commute (in excess of 300 kilometres) – with those moving from Swan (Perth's largest LGA) to Boddington the exception.

The Western Australian regional growth hotspot of Boddington, saw its greatest share of movers come from the Perth-LGA of Swan, at 17.6 per cent. With neighbouring LGAs, in general, accounting for the vast majority of movers at 94.1 per cent.

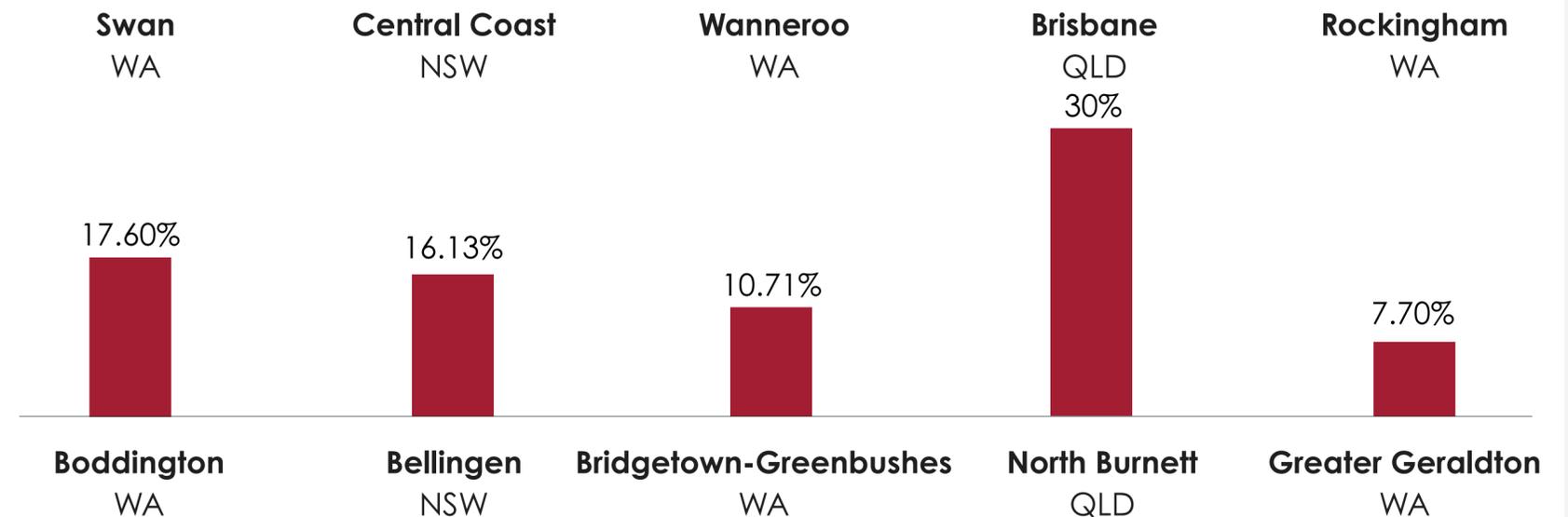
Meanwhile the feeder LGA for Bridgetown-Greenbushes was the northern Perth LGA of Wanneroo (accounting for a 10.7 per cent share). Located 300 kilometres south of Perth, 92.9 per cent of those moving to Bridgetown-Greenbushes came from Western Australia, albeit not from neighbouring LGAs.

The greatest share of movers to Greater Geraldton also came from Perth, to hail from Rockingham. While around three-quarters of movers came from LGAs within Western Australia, around a quarter came from LGAs in other parts of Australia.

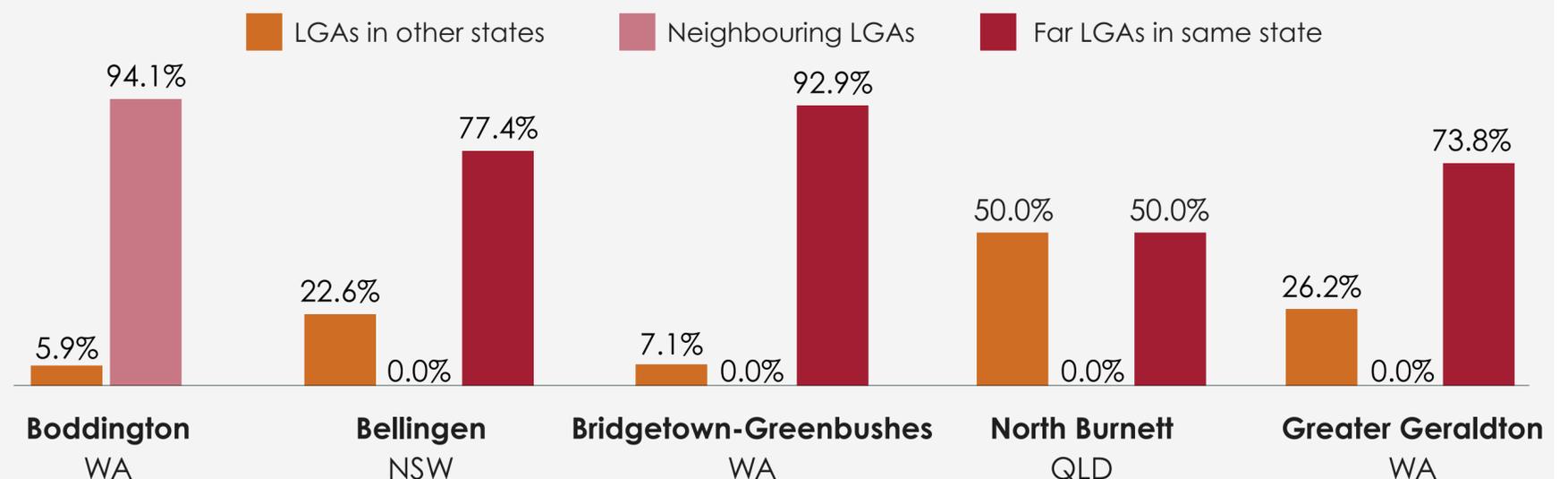
North Burnett in Queensland saw the largest share of its movers, at 30 per cent, make the 450-kilometre journey north from Brisbane, however half of its movers came from LGAs outside of the Sunshine State, namely New South Wales and Victoria.

While Bellingen in New South Wales, bucked the trend, with its greatest share of movers (at 16.1%) coming from the regional LGA of the Central Coast. Overall, around three quarters of movers to Bellingen were from LGAs within New South Wales, while the remaining quarter were from other states.

Top Five LGAs by growth in net internal migration to Regional Australia
% share overall movers from old LGA



Top Five LGAs by annual growth in net internal migration to Regional Australia
% share movers from old LGA



Regional Hotspots By Growth

Top Five 'Growth' LGAs: who is making the move?

Delving further into the Top Five regional growth hotspots, this slide examines the demographics of who is moving to the regional hotspots, in terms of the Top Five LGAs by annual growth in net internal migration, and how long they had been in their previous LGA before making the move.

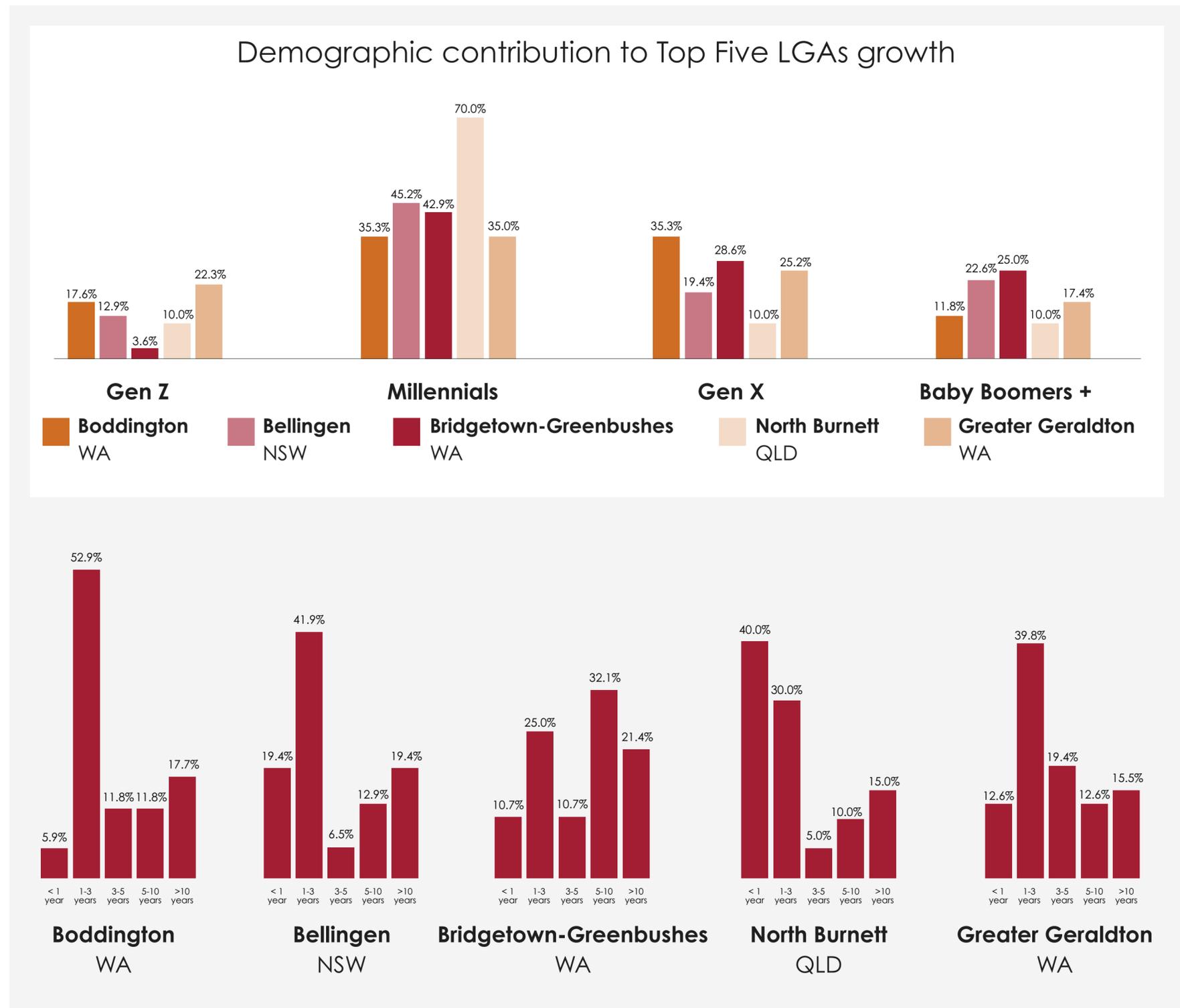
The youngest demographic of movers, Gen Z, favoured Greater Geraldton – making up 22.3 per cent of movers to the Western Australian LGA. While Boddington, at 17.6 per cent, was also a popular destination amongst this demographic.

Meanwhile, Millennials flocked to North Burnett, making up 70 per cent of its movers, while Bellingen and Bridgetown-Greenbushes also proved popular with this demographic.

Those moving to Boddington were evenly split between Millennials and Gen X, each with a 35.3 per cent share, while the percentage share of Gen X moving to Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Greater Geraldton stood at 28.6 and 25.2 per cent, respectively.

Baby Boomers, meanwhile, accounted for around one in four people moving to Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Bellingen, while it dropped to one in 10, in North Burnett.

Across demographics, around a quarter to half of all movers – to the Top Five regional hotspots – had been in their previous LGA for one to three years. In particular, those moving to Boddington, Bellingen and Greater Geraldton were more likely to have been in their previous LGA for one to three years. But in the case of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, it was more permanent residents that had made the move – those that had been in their previous LGA for five to 10 years. And for North Burnett, 40 per cent of those that had made the move were in their previous LGA for less than a year.



Most attractive places for capital-city people



Top Five LGAs: largest net inflows from capitals

The LGAs most popular amongst city-dwellers are those in close proximity to the east coast capitals, with the Sunshine Coast heading up the leader board for the fourth consecutive quarter with its 13.4 per cent share of net capital to regional migration. This came off the back of a 22.3 per cent quarterly growth rate, while annual growth was down by 16.5 per cent.

The Gold Coast cemented its second-place position with a 9.5 per cent share despite a drop-off in net inflows on both a quarterly (3.1 per cent) and annual basis (44.5 per cent).

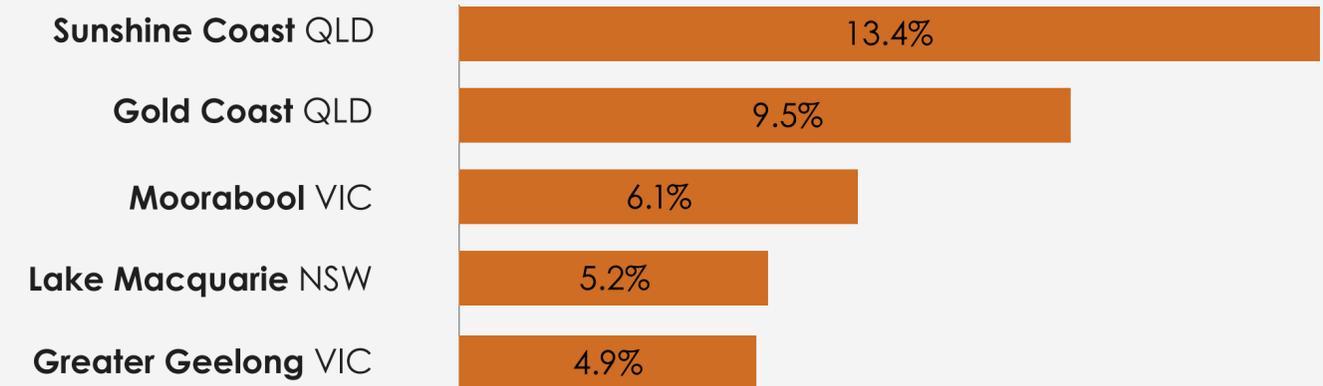
Moorabool firmed its bronze placing, for the second consecutive quarter, rising through the leader board from fifth place 12 months ago. Holding a 6.1 per cent share this was bolstered by quarterly and annual growth rates of 14.6 and 39.3 per cent, respectively.

Lake Macquarie took out fourth, with its 5.2 per cent share of net capital to regional migration inflows. Quarterly growth in the coastal LGA was up by 13.1 per cent, while on an annual basis it remained stable at -0.7 per cent.

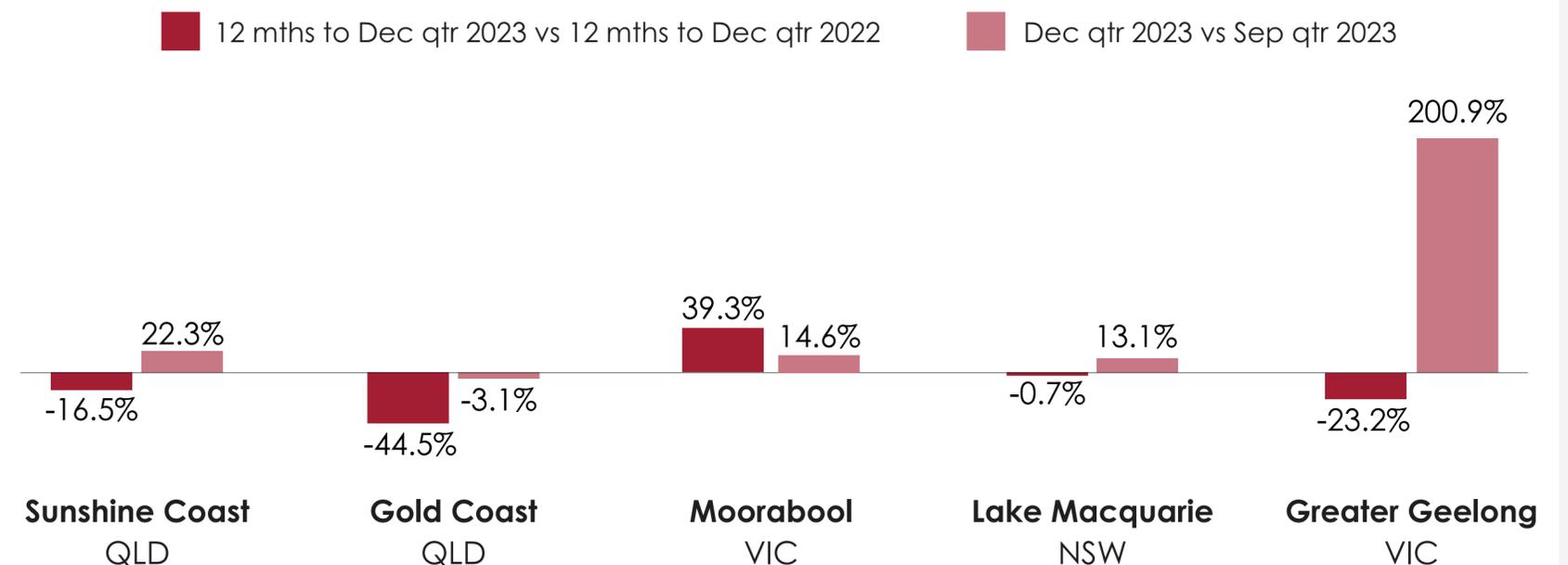
Greater Geelong rounded out the Top Five with a 4.9 per cent share, despite recording the highest quarterly growth rate of the Top Five, at 200.9 per cent. While annual growth in the 12 months to December 2023 was down by 23.2 per cent.

It should be noted that the net migration inflows from capitals are: inflows from capitals minus outflows to capitals.

Top Five LGAs by annual growth in total net internal migration inflows
12 months to Dec qtr 2023



Quarterly change in total net internal migration to Top Five LGAs
Dec qtr 2023 vs Sep qtr 2023, % change



Most attractive places for capital-city people



Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from capitals

City-dwellers flocked to the west and northern reaches of the country this quarter, with the new growth regional hotspots – in terms of annual growth in net capital to regional migration – all newcomers to the Top Five list, except Whitsunday and Waroona which have both made the list once previously.

Northam, in Western Australia, topped the list with a two-fold increase (of 92.6 per cent) in net capital to regional inflows in the 12-month period to December 2023. This came despite a quarterly drop-off in its growth rate of 53.6 per cent.

Further afield in Western Australia, Waroona posted a 76.7 per cent annual growth rate in net capital to regional inflows in the latest 12-month period, while on a quarterly basis it was down by 15.4 per cent.

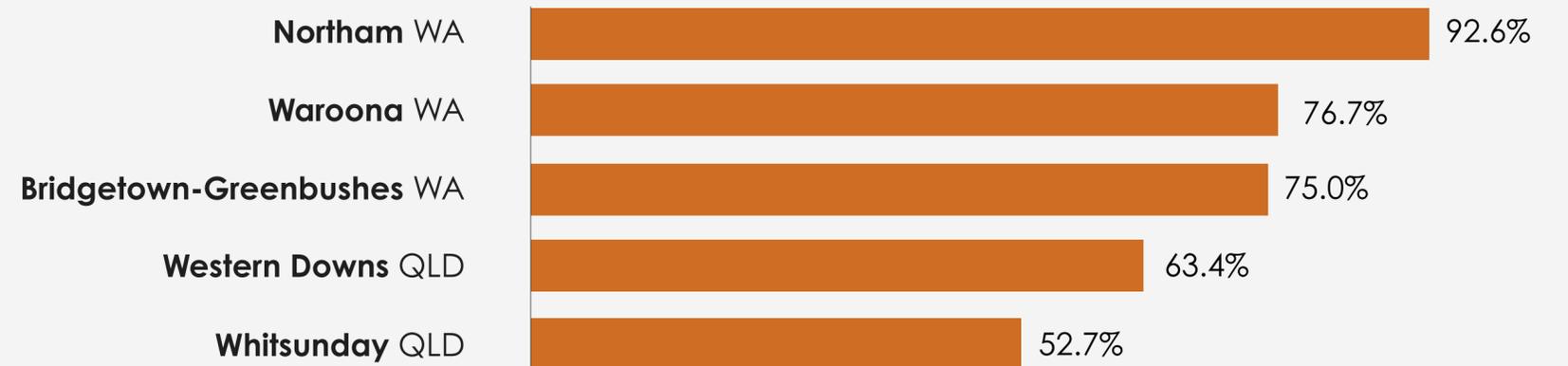
Rounding out the Western Australian contingent, Bridgetown-Greenbushes took out third position with a 75 per cent annual growth rate, while on a quarterly basis net capital to regional migration inflows fell back by 11.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, Western Downs in Queensland exhibited the strongest quarterly growth rate (as the only LGA in the Top Five to report a positive quarterly rate), of 141.7 per cent, to take out fourth position on the leader board.

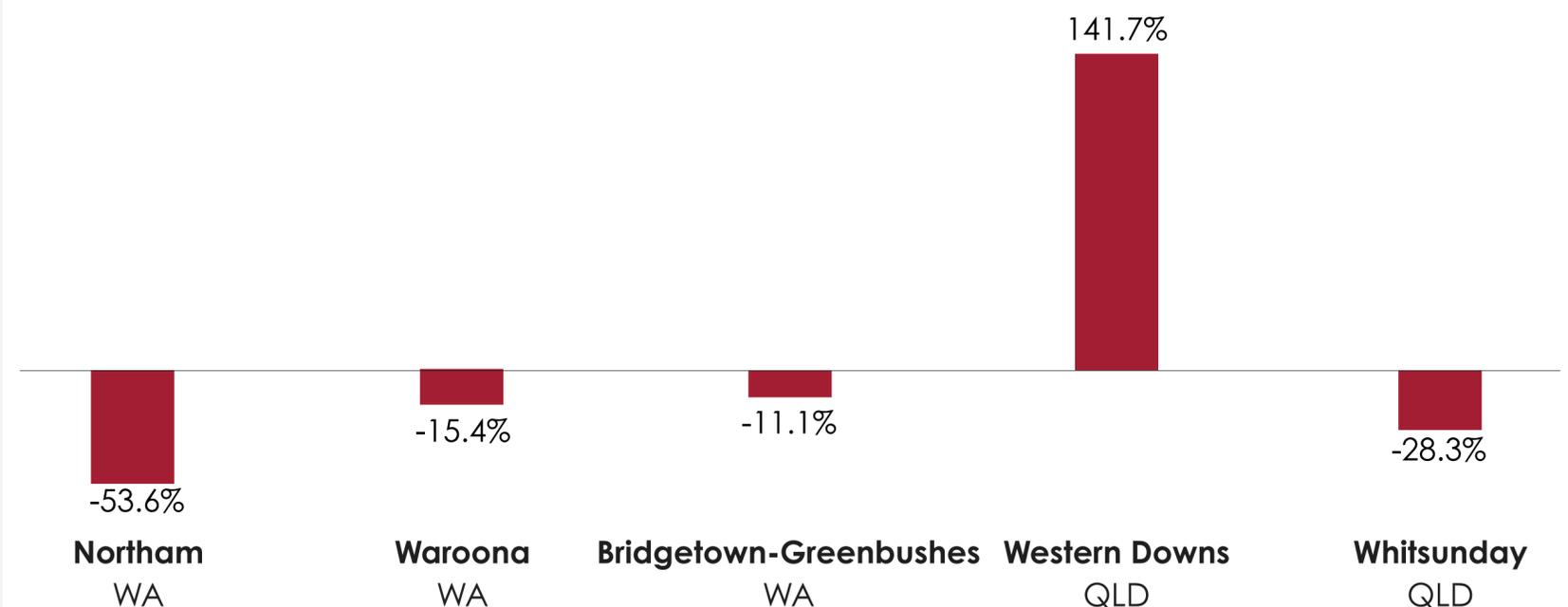
Whitsunday rounded out the Top Five, with its 52.7 per cent annual growth in net capital to regional inflows, while on a quarterly basis it was down by 28.3 per cent.

It should be noted that Boddington was excluded from the Top Five, as net capital to regional migration in the 12 months to December 2023 was less than 50 people, a caveat to inclusion in the Top Five rankings.

Top Five LGAs by annual growth in net capital-regional migration
12 mths to Dec qtr 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec qtr 2022, % change



Quarterly change in net capital-regional migration inflows to Top Five LGAs
Dec qtr 2023 vs Sep qtr 2023, % change



Most attractive places for regional people

Top Five LGAs: largest net inflows from regions

The Sunshine Coast proved to be not only popular amongst capital movers, but also with regional movers, accounting for a 7.7 per cent share of net region to region migration. Topping the 'regional' list for the third consecutive quarter, the coastal LGA recorded the highest quarterly growth rate of the Top Five, at 76.3 per cent, while annual growth in the 12 months to December 2023 was up 61.4 per cent.

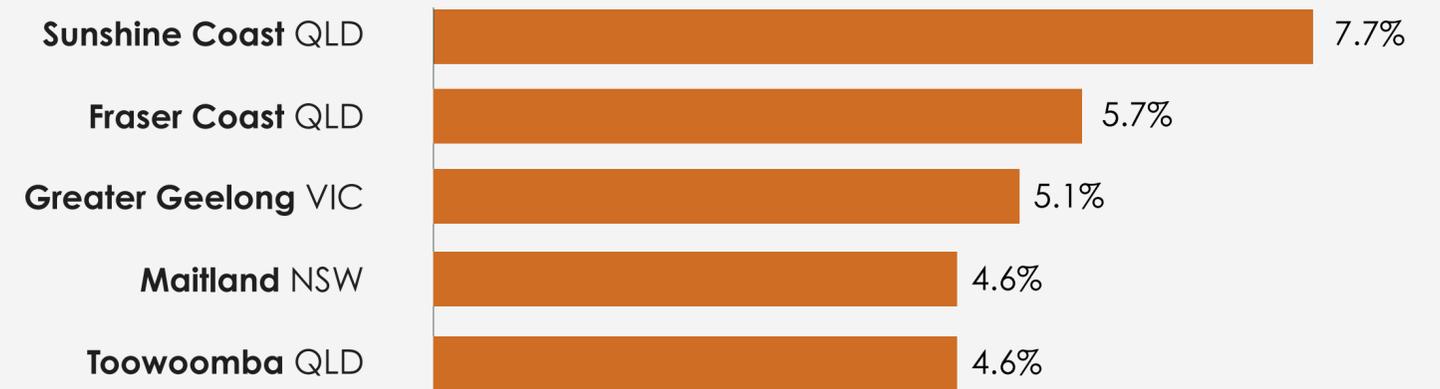
The Fraser Coast boosted its share of regional movers to 5.7 per cent, moving it into second position – from fourth previously. This was despite an easing in quarterly and annual growth rates in the vicinity of 8.5 per cent.

Greater Geelong edged down a spot to third, with a 5.1 per cent share, on the back of a 41.2 per cent drop-off in quarterly growth. That said, annual growth in net regional to regional migration was up by 113 per cent – the highest annual growth rate of the Top Five.

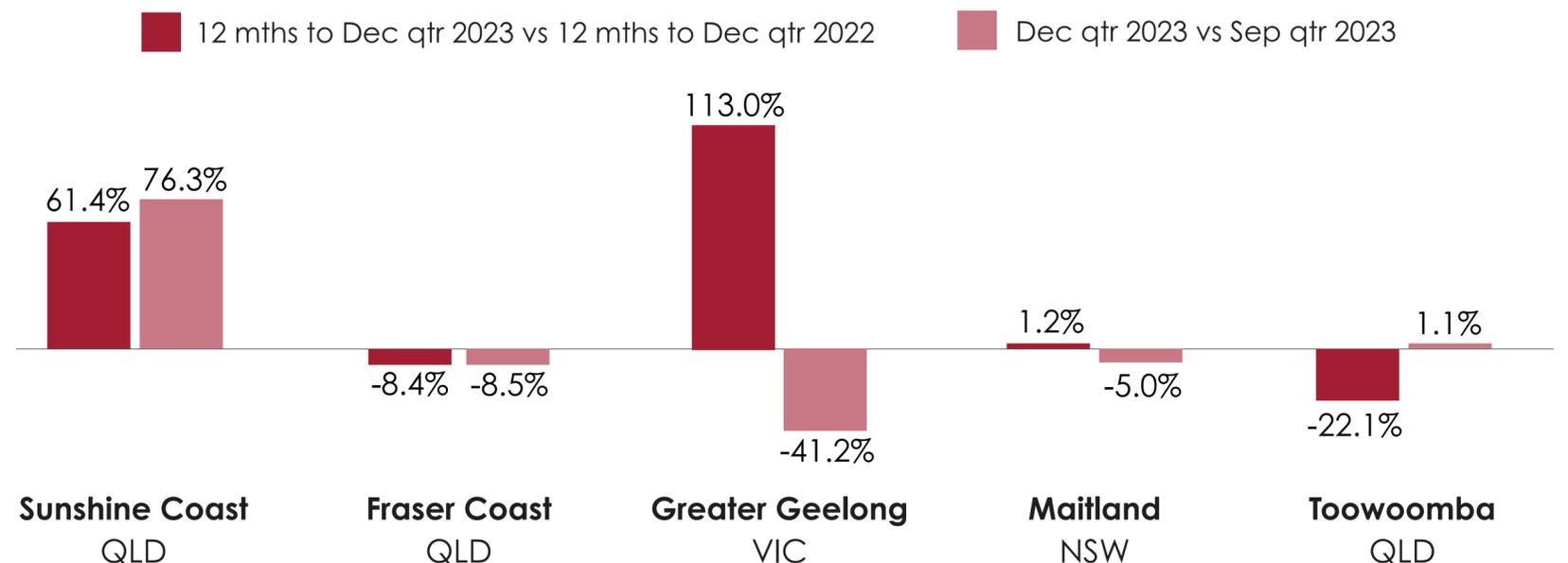
Maitland climbed to fourth position, with a 4.6 per cent growth rate, despite fairly low quarterly (-5 per cent) and annual growth (1.2 per cent) rates.

Meanwhile Toowoomba moved from third into fifth, recording a 4.6 per cent share, with annual growth down by 22.1 per cent in the 12 months to December 2023 and a marginal 1.1 per cent rise on a quarterly basis.

Top Five LGAs by share of net regional-regional migration
12 mths to Dec qtr 2023, Share %



Quarterly and annual change in net regional-regional migration inflows to Top Five LGAs



Increasingly attractive places for regional people

Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from regions

The large Victorian regional centre of Greater Bendigo held onto its mantle as the top growth ‘hotspot’ amongst regional movers, recording a four-fold increase in net region-to-region migration in the 12 months to December 2023. This solid annual growth came despite a 101.1 per cent drop-off in quarterly inflows.

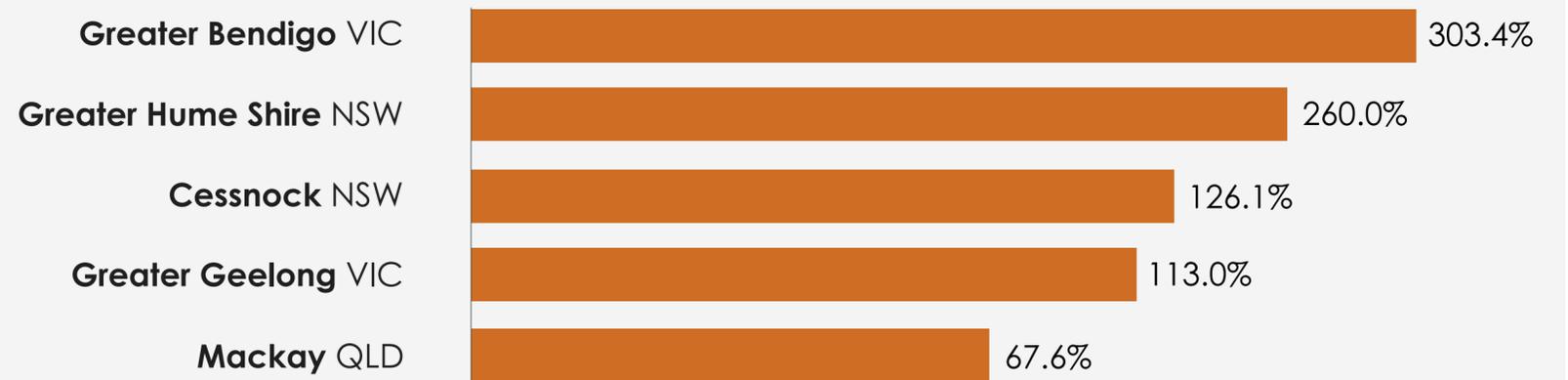
Greater Hume Shire, located in close proximity to Canberra, made its debut on the Top Five list, with a near four-fold increase in net regional migration. On a quarterly basis, growth edged down by 9.5 per cent, the smallest quarterly drop across the Top Five.

Joining its New South Wales counterpart, Cessnock also made its first appearance on the Top Five list – coming in third spot, to record a more than two-fold annual increase in net region-to-region migration.

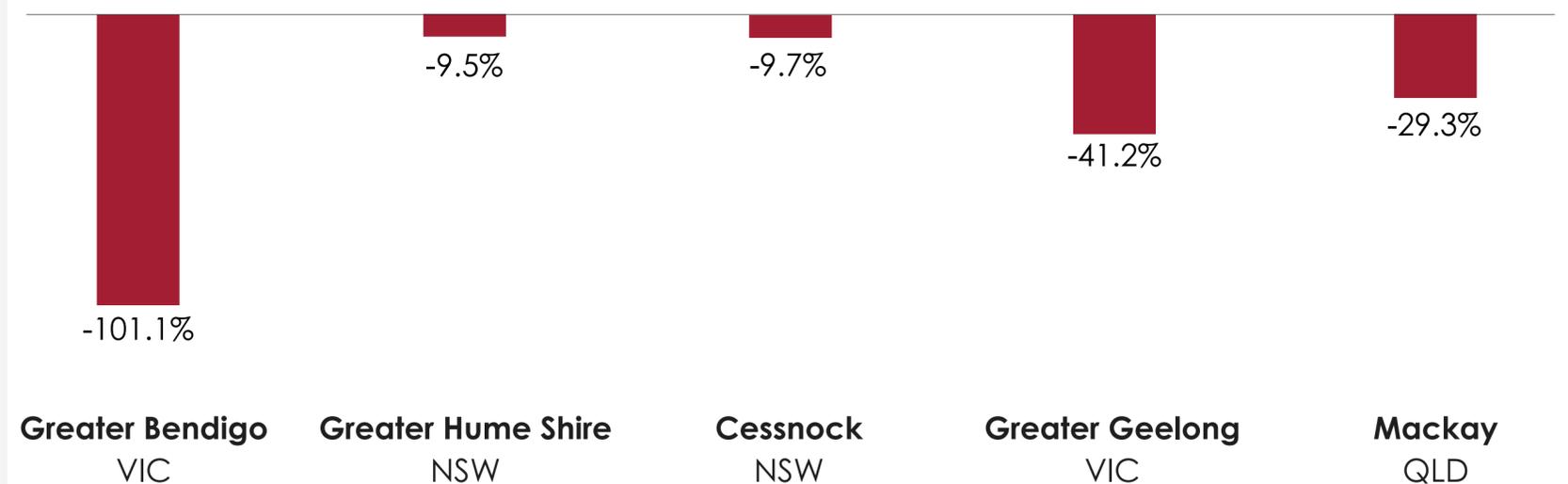
Meanwhile, Greater Geraldton and Mackay retained their positions in the Top Five, at fourth and fifth spot respectively, despite a cooling in quarterly growth.

Although not making the Top Five, other notable growth hotspots were also observed in Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and South Australia such as the Sunshine Coast, Southern Downs, Whitsunday, South Burnett, Greater Geraldton, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Clarence Valley and Murray Bridge.

Top Five LGAs by annual growth in **net regional-regional migration** 12 mths to Dec qtr 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec qtr 2022 (%)



Quarterly change in **net regional-regional migration** inflows to Top Five LGAs Dec qtr 2023 vs Sep qtr 2023, % change



Inter-regional Migration



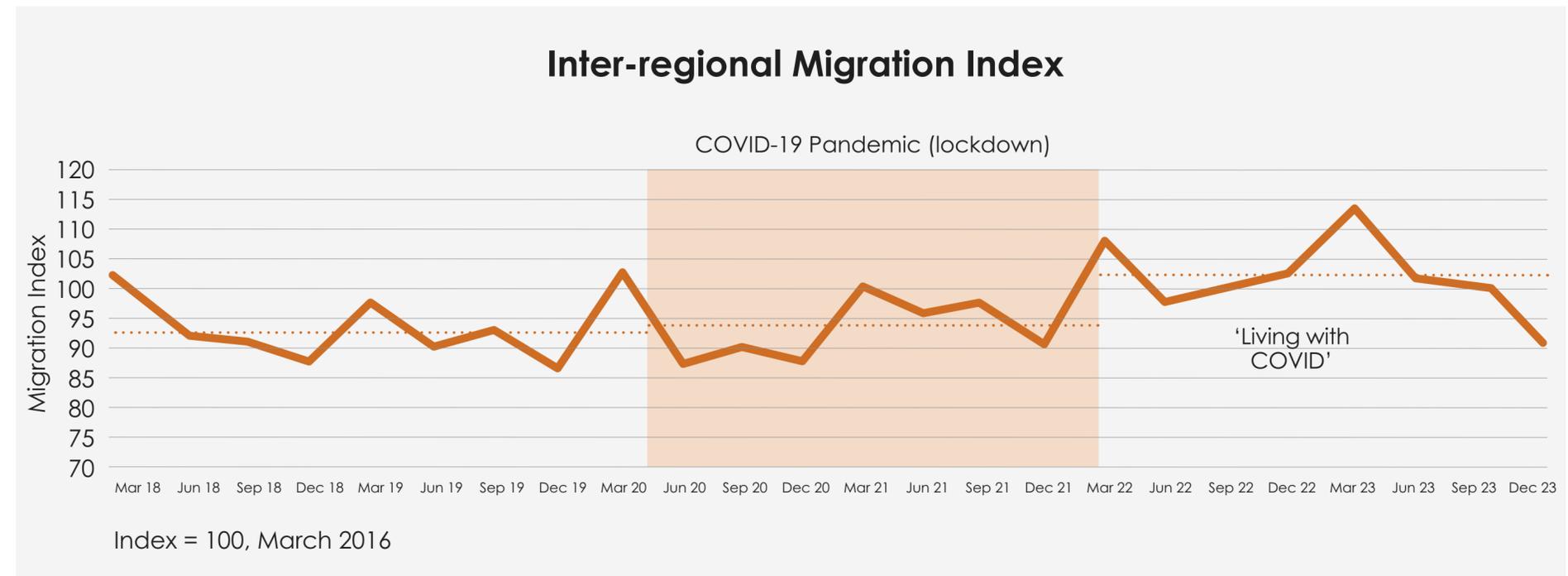
Inter-regional migration falls but continues to account for second largest share of migration

The reduced mobility of the Australian population was felt across the board this quarter, with inter-regional migration – measured by the Inter-Regional Migration Index – dropping by 10.5 per cent in the December quarter. While a seasonal drop-off is typical in the December quarter, in the vicinity of 4.8 per cent, it was the largest fall since the early days of the pandemic in June-2020.

Well back from its earlier-year peak, the index is now hovering around pre-pandemic levels, however the next RMI (March 2024 quarter) will indicate if this is a sustained drop-off or a larger than normal, seasonal dip against a backdrop of six months of uncertainty in property and financial markets.

Despite the drop-off, inter-regional migration continues to account for the second largest share of migration (among the four elements of migration) at 12.8 per cent.

Those making the inter-regional move are increasingly heading to larger regional centres such as the Sunshine Coast, Geelong, Maitland and Toowoomba. While the growth hotspots are generally further afield indicating regional movers are looking for strong local industry employment prospects, or in close proximity to larger regional centres where house price growth is slowing or there is some rental availability.



Appendix



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A1: Regional Movers Index

Methodology Notes



- (1) CBA-RAI Regional Movers Index is defined as movement of CBA personal customers from capital cities to regional areas (see A1.2). Index = 100, March 2016 quarter.
- (2) Customer movement or population flows refers to CBA personal customers changing their address as stored in CBA technological systems. Customers must have stayed at one address for 6 months (prior to moving) to be counted.
- (3) Capital cities/Regional areas defined through ABS 1270.0.55.001 GCCSA boundaries. Capital cities go by the GCCSA_NAMES of: Greater Sydney, Greater Melbourne, Greater Brisbane, Greater Adelaide, Greater Perth, Greater Hobart, Greater Darwin and Australian Capital Territory. Regional areas go by the GCCSA_NAMES of: Rest of NSW, Rest of Vic, Rest of QLD, Rest of SA, Rest of TAS, Rest of NT. Offshore and 'No usual address' GCCSA_NAMES excluded. ACT has no regional areas.
- (4) Relocations within capitals and within regions are those that are across different LGAs. That is, relocations WITHIN a given LGA are not considered or counted as a relocation. See p19, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-capital and capital-region migration
- (5) The Net regional migration index is calculated as movement from capital areas to regional less movement from regional areas to capital cities. Index = 100, March 2016 quarter.
- (6) LGAs are defined through ABS 1270.0.55.003 ASGS Volume 3 – Non ABS Structures.
- (7) To be listed on the RMI appendix – and considered for the various Top 5 rankings – an LGA must:
 - Have had net internal migration inflows in 2023 of 50 or more people
 - Have had a base of net internal migration, net capital-region or net region-region inflows of more than 10 people. This is to filter out significant outlier results associated with changes in small numbers. Significant outlier growth rates are not published or ranked.
- (8) 14 LGAs have a percentage of their constituency defined as Capital and the other percentage defined as Regional. These LGAs include Scenic Rim (R), Light (RegC), Barossa (DC), Yarra Ranges (S), Lockyer Valley (R), Kingborough (M), Murrindindi (S), Derwent Valley (M), Murray (S), Mallala (DC), Moorabool (S), Mitchell (S), Macedon Ranges (S), Unincorporated NT.
- (9) The proportion of CBA customers in each state as percentage of total customers is representative of overall Australian population (ABS National, state and territory population released 18th March 2021 for December 2020 reference period).
- (10) Chief Data and Analytics Office (CDAO) has prepared this report. CDAO is a business unit of Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 AFSL 234945 (Bank). References to the “Group” are to the Bank and its subsidiaries (including Commonwealth Securities Limited ABN 60 067 254 300 AFSL 238814, Commonwealth Australia Securities LLC and CBA Europe Ltd) and includes the directors, employees and representatives of the Bank and its subsidiaries.

A2: All LGAs

Share of Migration, Changes in Total Net Internal Migration



LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	Growth in TOTAL NIM 12 mths to Dec 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec 2022 (%)
Sunshine Coast	QLD	17.5%	13.4%	7.7%	-5.9%
Gold Coast	QLD	8.1%	9.5%	-2.6%	-51.1%
Greater Geelong	VIC	7.6%	4.9%	5.1%	-0.7%
Moorabool	VIC	6.2%	6.1%	0.3%	64.6%
Fraser Coast	QLD	6.0%	3.0%	5.7%	-8.8%
Lake Macquarie	NSW	4.6%	5.2%	-1.1%	16.2%
Bundaberg	QLD	3.7%	1.7%	3.9%	-25.0%
Cessnock	NSW	3.6%	1.8%	3.5%	35.2%
Maitland	NSW	3.4%	0.9%	4.6%	-16.7%
Baw Baw	VIC	3.2%	3.9%	-1.3%	-4.8%
Port Macquarie-Hastings	NSW	3.0%	2.7%	0.6%	-15.2%
Ballarat	VIC	2.9%	2.0%	1.8%	-10.1%
Mackay	QLD	2.8%	0.5%	4.4%	36.6%
Bass Coast	VIC	2.8%	2.8%	-0.1%	12.3%
Gympie	QLD	2.7%	1.0%	3.2%	-4.3%
Tweed	NSW	2.6%	1.7%	1.8%	40.8%
Shoalhaven	NSW	2.6%	3.0%	-0.8%	47.7%
Shellharbour	NSW	2.6%	1.4%	2.2%	-13.2%
Mid-Coast	NSW	2.4%	2.9%	-0.9%	-20.4%
Busselton	WA	2.3%	1.8%	0.9%	-12.5%
Port Stephens	NSW	2.2%	1.8%	0.7%	-13.8%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	Growth in TOTAL NIM 12 mths to Dec 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec 2022 (%)
Greater Bendigo	VIC	2.0%	0.6%	2.6%	15.9%
Townsville	QLD	2.0%	-0.5%	4.6%	-8.0%
Clarence Valley	NSW	2.0%	0.7%	2.4%	15.3%
Toowoomba	QLD	1.8%	-0.7%	4.6%	-56.1%
Surf Coast	VIC	1.6%	2.0%	-0.7%	139.8%
Southern Downs	QLD	1.6%	1.0%	1.1%	15.0%
Alexandrina	SA	1.5%	1.5%	0.2%	-7.1%
Noosa	QLD	1.5%	2.7%	-2.2%	4.1%
Gladstone	QLD	1.4%	0.0%	2.6%	-32.9%
Livingstone	QLD	1.4%	0.4%	1.8%	-16.5%
Whitsunday	QLD	1.4%	0.8%	1.0%	38.9%
Snowy Valleys	NSW	1.3%	1.6%	-0.5%	88.3%
Augusta-Margaret River	WA	1.3%	1.0%	0.6%	-17.3%
Golden Plains	VIC	1.2%	0.5%	1.3%	118.8%
South Burnett	QLD	1.2%	0.7%	0.9%	-29.8%
Ballina	NSW	1.0%	0.9%	0.3%	97.7%
Barossa	SA	1.0%	0.8%	0.3%	60.0%
East Gippsland	VIC	0.9%	0.9%	0.1%	-35.1%
Greater Geraldton	WA	0.8%	0.0%	1.7%	158.2%
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	NSW	0.8%	1.7%	-1.6%	-62.1%
Scenic Rim	QLD	0.8%	0.3%	0.9%	-14.0%

*a negative share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net outflow of people to other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of outflows from all LGAs that experienced a net outflow of people to other regions

* a positive share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net inflow of people from other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See p19 on the Appendix A3 for definitions and methodology.

A2: All LGAs

Share of Migration, Changes in Total Net Internal Migration



LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	Growth in TOTAL NIM 12 mths to Dec 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec 2022 (%)
Greater Hume Shire	NSW	0.8%	0.2%	1.0%	123.7%
Goulburn Mulwaree	NSW	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%	33.0%
Tablelands	QLD	0.7%	0.0%	1.2%	-52.5%
Victor Harbor	SA	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	-20.7%
Chittering	WA	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	1.9%
Bunbury	WA	0.6%	0.2%	0.8%	69.5%
Murray Bridge (RC)	SA	0.6%	0.2%	0.7%	39.4%
Kempsey	NSW	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	-41.1%
Rockhampton	QLD	0.5%	-0.5%	1.9%	-46.1%
Harvey	WA	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	15.8%
Toodyay	WA	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	33.8%
Waroona	WA	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	46.6%
Eurobodalla	NSW	0.5%	0.9%	-0.8%	-34.6%
Wellington	VIC	0.5%	0.7%	-0.4%	-37.2%
Moira	VIC	0.5%	0.7%	-0.3%	17.4%
Nambucca Valley	NSW	0.5%	0.6%	-0.1%	-44.9%
Mid Murray	SA	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	-22.1%
Hindmarsh	VIC	0.5%	0.9%	-0.8%	-81.4%
Northam	WA	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	18.2%
Ceduna	SA	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	20.0%
Indigo	VIC	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-15.4%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	Growth in TOTAL NIM 12 mths to Dec 2023 vs 12 mths to Dec 2022 (%)
Murray River	NSW	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	-40.8%
Mid-Western Regional	NSW	0.4%	0.9%	-0.8%	-17.4%
Dardanup	WA	0.4%	0.0%	0.8%	-43.7%
Strathbogie	VIC	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	17.5%
North Burnett	QLD	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	173.1%
Copper Coast	SA	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	-55.1%
Pyrenees	VIC	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	102.9%
Mount Alexander	VIC	0.4%	0.6%	-0.3%	-44.7%
Bega Valley	NSW	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	-60.6%
Kangaroo Island	SA	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	-1.5%
Bellingen	NSW	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	215.0%
Gingin	WA	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	44.2%
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	WA	0.4%	0.4%	-0.1%	195.2%
Donnybrook-Balingup	WA	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	-7.6%
Albany	WA	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	-73.9%
Light (RegC)	SA	0.3%	0.4%	-0.1%	36.6%
Exmouth	WA	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	-1.8%
Mansfield	VIC	0.3%	0.4%	-0.2%	-17.2%
Western Downs	QLD	0.3%	0.4%	-0.2%	-53.6%
Boddington	WA	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	218.8%

*a negative share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net outflow of people to other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of outflows from all LGAs that experienced a net outflow of people to other regions

* a positive share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net inflow of people from other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See p19 on the Appendix A3 for definitions and methodology.

A3: Note on methodology

Net migration and population growth



The Regional Movers Index publication was established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to answer the pertinent question at the time: were capital city people fleeing to the regions? The RMI showed this to be well and truly the case. It also highlighted that regional people were tending to stay in regions and avoid those severe capital-city lockdowns.

Now that Australia is living with COVID and population flows from regions to capitals have resumed, the RMI publication is honing its focus to understand the **NET** migration inflows that Australia's regions are continuing to experience. That is, the RMI is now not only considering the one-way flow of population movements from capitals to regions, but it is also considering the population movements in the other direction, by focusing on net flows. The RMI publication is also now considering the breakdown of net migration flows into the various regional LGAs: net migration from capital cities and net migration from other regions. Together, this provides an invaluable source of information on a key driver of local population changes: net internal migration.

A region's population will change according to changes in:

- Its **natural increase** – local births minus deaths
- Its **net overseas migration** – overseas people moving in minus local people moving overseas
- Its **net internal migration** – people from other regions (within Australia) moving in minus local people moving to other regions (within Australia)

The RMI's reporting on net internal migration sheds much-needed light on this notorious swing variable underneath total population changes. It will also provide policymakers, industry and communities with the added understanding of local population dynamics driven by capital city versus regional migration patterns.

A3: Note on methodology

Ranking the Top Five LGAs



In considering net internal migration – and its constituent parts of net migration from capitals and net migration from other regions – this edition of the RMI ranks regions accordingly, i.e. based on:

- (1) **Total Net Internal Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional local government areas receiving the largest net internal migration inflows (irrespective of whether these inflows are from capitals or other regions) during the 12 months to the December quarter 2023. It also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net internal migration inflows (again, irrespective of whether these inflows are from capitals or other regions).
- (2) **Net Capital-to-Regional Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional LGAs receiving the largest net migration inflows from capital cities. It does so by identifying and ranking the regions that have received the greatest share of total net migration inflows from all capitals to all regional LGAs. It also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net migration inflows from capital cities.
- (3) **Net Region-to-Region Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional LGAs receiving the largest net migration inflows **from regional areas**. It does so by identifying the regions that have experienced the greatest share of total net migration inflows **among the regional LGAs that have experienced net inflows**. The report also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net migration inflows from regional areas.

Regarding the ranking of regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration inflows, the RMI has sought to filter out – and not include in the rankings – significant outlier results due to changes in small numbers. There are many regional LGAs with small populations prone to experiencing small net internal migration flows and therefore large percentage changes in growth rates. These places are not included in the RMI rankings. Specifically, an LGA must meet two criteria to be considered and ranked in the RMI publication:

1. The LGA must have experienced total net internal migration inflows in the previous 12 months of 50 or more people
2. The LGA must have experienced net internal migration inflows from either capitals or other regions of more than 10 people in the base period. Specifically:
 - a) LGAs where the net migration **inflows from either capitals or regions were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in total net migration inflows.
 - b) LGAs where the net migration **inflows from capitals were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration inflows **from capitals**.
 - c) And LGAs where the net **migration inflows from other regions were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration inflows **from regions**.

*In the 12 months to December quarter 2023 there were three LGAs that experienced total net internal migration inflows of 50 or more people, but their net inflows in the 12 months to December quarter previous year (2022) were 10 people or less, so they are excluded in Appendix A2. The growth rates in their net internal migration have therefore not been assessed in the rankings of LGAs by total net internal migration. Those LGAs are: Hinchinbrook (180%), Capel Inverell (-400%) and Wingecarribee (-269%).

A3: Note on methodology



Definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-to-capital and capital-to-region migration

The Regional Movers Index publication focuses on migration (as indicated by CBA customer relocations) from capital cities to regions. Specifically, the relocations from capital-city Local Government Areas to regional LGAs. Since December 2022 the publication also considers (but previously hadn't focused on) migration in the other direction – from regional LGAs to capital-city LGAs. These relocations are necessarily between different LGAs (with some exceptions noted in Appendix A1).

Other relocations that occur during any given quarter are those within and between capital-cities and also those within and between regions. In addition to relocations between different LGAs, a significant number of relocations in any given quarter are within a given LGA – households changing their homes, but remaining within their overall community. Until December 2022 the RMI publication **included** these relocations within its overall analytical framework. Including these gives a higher number of relocations than excluding and this influences the numbers in the RMI report up to that issue showing the shares that each type of relocation accounts for out of all relocations. These shares are highlighted typically at the beginning of each quarter's publication (see. Table, **Breakdown of total internal migration** on p3 of December 2022 edition). Under that analytical framework, of all relocations:

- those within regional Australia have accounted for roughly 22 per cent;
- those from regional Australia to capitals have accounted for around 4 per cent;
- those from capitals to regional Australia have accounted for around 6 per cent, and
- those within and between capitals have accounted for around 68 per cent each quarter.

From December 2022 the Regional Movers Index publication includes additional detailed analysis on inter-regional migration – migration within and between Australia's regions. This is to provide an indication of another key source of population growth at the LGA level (beyond the inflows from capital-city LGAs). Relocations within a given regional LGA will not affect that LGA's overall population, and excluding these moves does not affect the RMI analysis of capital to regional flows or regional to capital flows. To get more accurate results of relocations between regions, the RMI now uses a revised analytical framework to **exclude** relocations that occur within any given LGA. We have applied this framework across the relevant elements of the publication for internal consistency. Under this revised analytical framework, we are analysing fewer but what might be called major relocations (see Table, **Breakdown of total major relocations** of p3 of this edition). Reducing the base number of relocations has changed the relative shares:

- those within regional Australia account for roughly 13 per cent;
- those from regional Australia to capitals account for around 10 per cent;
- those from capitals to regional Australia account for around 11 per cent, and
- those within and between capitals account for around 66 per cent this latest quarter.

Rebasing the analysis does not change the historical pattern of **capital city to regional** flows or **regional to capital** flows that underpin the RMI net migration index.